

*Bombus flavescens.*

*Male*.—Entirely clothed with pale yellow pubescens; the wings hyaline, their apical margins clouded; the legs testaceous red.

Length 8 lines.

Hab. Chusan.

This species is at present unique in the collection of the British Museum.

IX. *Descriptions of some Hymenopterous Insects from Northern India.* By F. SMITH, Esq.

[Read 5th July, 1852.]

As an appendix to my descriptions of Chinese *Hymenoptera*, read 3rd May, I beg to present the following descriptions of Indian Wasps and Bees.

*Vespa magnifica.*

*Female*.—Black; head and basal joint of the antennæ of an orange-yellow; the mandibles are darker than the head, and have their teeth black; the head is finely and the clypeus coarsely punctured; the prothorax laterally is indistinctly tinged with red; there is also on each side of the mesothorax anteriorly a very obscure spot of the same colour, and another on the outer margin of the tegulæ; the wings fuscous; the anterior tibiæ in front have more or less of a ferruginous colouring, and the entire legs have a changeable sericeous pile. Abdomen, the segments one to five have a narrow orange-yellow marginal fascia, continued beneath; that on the fifth sometimes interrupted above; the sixth entirely yellow; the entire abdomen covered with a beautiful bloom.

Length 21 lines to 2 inches.

The *Worker* is similarly coloured, having the claws and anterior tibiæ and knees orange-yellow; the bands on the abdomen not quite so entire.

Length 12—14 lines.

Hab. Nepaul.

The specimens of this fine species, which are in the collection of the British Museum, were obtained from Major General Hardwick's collection.

*Vespa auraria.* (Tab. VIII. fig. 8.)

*Female.*—Orange-yellow; the head has some black pubescence on the vertex, and the mandibles have their teeth black; the thorax beneath is black; the mesothorax fuscous, and having a broad central stripe reddish yellow, the scutellum, and a lateral spot beneath, of the same colour; the tegulæ have a fuscous spot in the centre; wings hyaline, their anterior margins somewhat ferruginous towards their base; the anterior femora in front towards their base, the coxæ behind, and the intermediate and posterior coxæ and femora, black; the intermediate tibiæ, except their apex outwardly, the posterior pair in front and a spot towards their apex within, black; the entire legs being covered with a reflecting golden pile. The basal half of the first segment of the abdomen, and rather more than the basal half of the second, are rufo-fuscous; the basal segment has its apical margin narrowly pale-yellow; and the fuscous band on the second segment is slightly produced laterally; beneath, the segments are laterally more or less bright pale-yellow; the entire abdomen has a brilliant golden reflection.

Hab. Northern India.

This beautiful species is in several collections; but I am only acquainted with the six described.

*Vespa basalis.*

*Female.*—Black; the head, antennæ and mandibles, ferruginous, the latter black at their tips; the prothorax, tegulæ, a spot beneath the wings, a square spot on the mesothorax posteriorly, the scutellum and post-scutellum, and the sides of the metathorax, more or less ferruginous; the wings have a fuscous cloud on their anterior margins occupying the externo-medial cell; the margins of the coxæ and trochanters, the knees, the tibiæ and tarsi, ferruginous; the legs entirely covered with shining yellow or ochraceous pubescence. The basal segment of the abdomen has a transverse ferruginous macula forked at each end, and the apical margin has a narrow yellow band; the rest black. The entire insect is covered with a short thick pubescence, which somewhat obscures the colouring.

Hab. Nepaul.

There are two specimens of this species in the collection at the British Museum. I have not seen any other.

*Vespa obliterata.*

*Female*.—Black; head ferruginous; the eyes and teeth of the mandibles black; the prothorax, a spot on the mesothorax touching the scutellum, the scutellum, post-scutellum, the space between them, the base of the wings, the tegulæ, and a spot beneath the wings, reddish-yellow; the legs are of the same colour; the coxæ, intermediate and posterior femora, except the apex of each, black; the apical joints of the tarsi fuscous. Abdomen black; the apical margin of the basal segment narrowly piceous; the entire insect densely covered with pubescence, that on the head and thorax being yellow, but that on the abdomen black.

Hab. Northern India.

I have only seen one specimen of this very distinct species; it is in the cabinet of J. S. Baly, Esq., who obtained it from Captain Boys' collection.

*Bombus eximius.* (Tab. VIII. fig. 5.)

*Female*.—Black; head, thorax and abdomen clothed with black pubescence; the tegulæ nigro-piceous; wings hyaline, with a ferruginous tinge towards their base; the nervures ferruginous; the intermediate and posterior tibiæ, and tarsi, ferruginous, and clothed with ferruginous pubescence, as well as the anterior tarsi beneath.

Length 14 lines.

Hab. Silhet.

In the British Museum there are specimens of this fine species. I have not seen it in any other collection.

*Bombus funerarius.* (Tab. VIII. fig. 6.)

*Female*.—Black; the clypeus very smooth and shining, its anterior margin ferruginous; the mandibles also ferruginous, having two longitudinal deep sulcations, their apex rounded; the face has a little black pubescence above the clypeus and also along the vertex, intermixed with a little silvery grey; the thorax above, and the basal segment, clothed with silvery grey pubescence, very dense and shining; the thorax beneath, the coxæ, trochanters, and femora, clothed with long silvery hairs; the apical joints of the tarsi ferruginous, claws black; the three apical segments of the abdomen clothed with silvery pubescence, the extreme apex intermixed with fulvous, particularly beneath; the wings fusco-hyaline.

Length 9 lines.

Hab. Northern India. From Captain Boys' collection.

The only specimen which I have seen of this beautiful insect is in the collection at the British Museum.

*Bombus rufo-fasciatus.*

*Female.*—Head black; the thorax black, with a transverse band of silvery-white pubescence on the collar, and another on the metathorax; the basal segment of the abdomen clothed with white pubescence, the second with black, the third with bright fulvous-red, and the three following with white; the wings hyaline; the thorax beneath, and the legs, clothed with black pubescence; towards the apex of the abdomen beneath there is a little white pubescence.

Length 10 lines.

Hab. Northern India.

I have only seen two specimens of this beautiful *Bombus*; one is in the collection of the British Museum, the other in that of J. S. Baly, Esq.

*Bombus simillimis.*

*Female.*—Entirely black, except the three apical segments of the abdomen, which are red; in some specimens there is a little pale pubescence on the basal segment of the abdomen; the wings dark fuscous, semi-transparent.

This species is very like the *Lapidarius* of Linn.; it is, however, larger, and has dark wings.

Hab. Northern India.

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